



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 30, 2007
Week Ending: April 29, 2007
CWP WA-CW1807

Cool and Moist Conditions Slowed Fieldwork and Progress Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork this week were 5.2. Generally, cool and moist weather continued to hamper crop activity. Grain producers were spraying for weed and rust control. Potato, grain corn and pea planting was behind schedule due to rain. Christmas tree growers continued fertilization and herbicide applications.

Fruits and Vegetables

No new crop damage due to weather has been reported. Too early to report damage from earlier spring frost. Apple trees continued to bloom in some areas while other areas reported various stages of petal fall and stone fruit tree blooming tapered off. Pears and blueberries were in bloom, and vegetable growers continued to prepare their fields.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 69% good, and 14% excellent. Cattlemen continued to vaccinate and brand cattle and nearly all areas of the state report cattle out on range and dropping winter coats.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.2
Last Week	5.7

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	12	74	14
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	13	81	5
Subsoil	1	14	80	5
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	6	20	72	2
Irrigation Water	0	0	94	6
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	6	90	0
Hay & Roughage	15	23	59	3

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	80	74	68	87
Spring Wheat Emerged	40	35	45	60
Barley Planted	85	79	60	77
Barley Emerged	35	31	35	49
Potatoes Planted	59	55	74	72
Potatoes Emerged	21	19	18	28
Corn Planted	27	26	36	41
Corn Emerged	16	14	12	7
Dry Edible Beans Planted	50	45	38	38
Proc. Green Peas Planted	42	38	78	72
Dry Peas Planted	60	56	41	58

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	5	24	61	8
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	5	89	6
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	34	62	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	2	97	1
Barley Dryland	0	0	25	72	3
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
Potatoes	0	0	39	61	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: The skies were cloudy, with slightly warmer temperatures. More daylight hours enabled the farmers to work longer days.

Grays Harbor: The Spring tapestry of color that continued to unfold across the rural landscape took on earthen tones as agricultural producers continued field cultivation. Commercial U-Pick blueberry farms were busy planting new fields in order to meet increasing consumer demand. Christmas tree growers continued fertilizing plantations and applied post and pre-emergent herbicides. Livestock producers were harvesting forage fields for haylage. Retail plant stands reported excellent sales of vegetable transplants. Although temperatures remained on the cool side, agricultural producers welcomed drier conditions with fewer rain showers.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Conditions were finally dry enough that farmers were able to begin spring activities.

Pierce/South King: The dry spell helped producers get out on to their fields to work. Crops were one to two weeks behind, but could catch up with some warm weather. No unusual situations were reported.

Lewis: The area had frost one morning. The weather was a mix of light rain and sunny days.

Mason: The area received .25 of an inch of precipitation, but it seemed like more with the gloomy misty weather that dominated the week. Saturday and Sunday were clear, warm, and breezy. Grass seemed to be growing well, the pastures were lush. Apple trees started blooming and should be in full bloom all week.

Skagit: High temperatures averaged 56 degrees. There was .03 of an inch of precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. With a good rain last Tuesday and overcast most of the week, the weather really put the breaks on plantings. However, rainy days turned into sunshine over the weekend and many farmers decided to get to work while the getting was good. Potato farmers in the valley had about ten percent of this year's crop in the ground. Spinach seed was also being planted in the

Skagit Valley. This year's pea crop will begin going in the ground this week as well. The Skagit Valley tulip festival saw lower than expected attendance this year.

Snohomish/North King: Temperatures were warmer with some sunny days.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The area had good weather most of the week with scattered rains. Nearly an inch of rain fell in the foothills but much less in the valley. Field work continued as fields dried out. Pastures were growing well. Apple trees were coming into full bloom. Stone fruits bloom was tapering off. Blueberries were in blossom.

Thurston: Cooler temperatures so far this spring. Grass growth and apple blossom blooms were late for this time of year.

Thurston (2nd Report): Agricultural producers took advantage of good weather and continued field cultivation. Livestock producers were cutting the first crop of forage destined to become haylage. Turfgrass growers were kept busy mowing, fertilizing and applying herbicides to established fields. Christmas tree growers continued fertilizing plantations and applying pre-emergent herbicides. Vegetable growers were preparing fields for warm season vegetable crop planting. Blueberry growers continued applying fungicides to established fields. Some growers reported that plant development so far was lagging behind normal years. We have only had one day so far this spring in which the temperatures reached the high 70's. Retail nurseries and garden stores continued to report strong demand for bedding plants.

Whatcom: A rainy week allowed only a few days for field work. Warmer temperatures averaged 52 degrees in the daytime and 42 degrees during night. Potato planting started and more grass was being cut for silage. Some fields were being prepared for annual crops. Plantings will be later this year due to wet weather.

Central

Benton: The county experienced a severe outbreak of rust on the earlier fall seeded wheat. Conditions were worst in the western portions of the county where many producers applied fungicides over the past ten days. Rust conditions appeared to spread into central portions (to the east) as well. If the cool, wetter weather patterns give way to warmer and drier conditions, we should see crop conditions getting better.

Benton (2nd Report): Mornings were cold in northern parts of the county, slowing crop growth.

Chelan/Douglas: Conditions were cool and windy. Winter wheat and spring pastures were behind normal growth due to the lack of warm weather. Spring moisture is needed. Apple trees were beginning to bloom. Cattle producers were releasing their livestock.

Franklin: There were normal weather conditions with normal farming activities. A few more reports trickled in regarding cherry, apricot, and nectarine losses from a few earlier freezes, though this seemed to be very spotty. It was too early to tell if the damage will work as natural thinning or adversely impact yields.

Grant: Grain corn planting continued, as did potato planting. Fresh pea planting was winding down. Sweet corn planting began, mostly in the southern portion of the county. Precipitation levels were down about 35 percent from the 30 year averages.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from two to nine degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Apples throughout the county were in various stages of petal fall except for the Upper Yakima Valley where apples had just reached full bloom. There were scattered reports of poor return bloom on Reds, Goldens and Fuji apples from the mid-Valley. Most evenings were above freezing.

Eastern

Asotin/Garfield: Crops were in good condition as farmers completed spring planting. The lower elevations could use some more moisture, especially in Asotin County.

Ferry: Weather conditions were windier and colder than normal. Winter wheat and spring pastures were progressing slowly due to lack of warm weather. Moisture is needed. Cattle producers were turning out to spring pastures.

Garfield: Rain was badly needed. Crops looked good with mild weather, but rain was missing the area except for in the Blue Mountains. Cereal Leaf Beetles arrived in large numbers - but also Convergent Ladybird Beetles arrived to eat their eggs.

Lincoln: Crops and pasture generally looked good as there was good growing weather. However, due to a recent trend of dry weather, rain is needed. Seeding was winding down for the most part, while some producers were spraying for weeds or fertilizing.

Okanogan: No recordable moisture was received. Area was pretty much free of frost for the orchards; however there may have been some frost in isolated areas. Pears were beginning to blossom. Cattlemen were out of hay, and most cattle were out on range/pasture. The range/pasture ground will not last too long without more rain.

Pend Oreille: The temperature high was 66 degrees and the low was 25 degrees with a trace of precipitation. Fields were worked in preparation for planting. Livestock were losing winter coats and eating more green pasture, and being supplemented in evenings with hay/ grain. Poultry were beginning to lay as temperatures warmed with some early hens nesting. Early weaner pigs were weaned and on the market.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The area experienced a week of wind and some cool temperatures with very little moisture. Some areas started to complain about how dry it really was. For the most part moisture was good but with no measurable precipitation it was dry and dusty. Field work and planting made a large amount of progress this week. A lot of the spring wheat was planted and producers were working on barley, peas and lentils. Grass growth in the pastures took off also with the warmer temperatures. Cattle will start to be turned out in the next couple of weeks. In the dryer areas they probably already have been turned out.

Stevens: In spite of dry conditions alfalfa had grown well. Grain producers continued tillage and seeding operations. Cattle producers worked cattle and started hauling out to spring pastures.

Stevens (2nd Report): Seasonal temperatures were average but moisture was well below normal for April. Moisture levels were not critical at this point in the season but unless seasonal May rains come range and pasture conditions will suffer. Some reports were received of alfalfa winter injury attributed to a mild January followed by cold in February.

Walla Walla: Crops continued to show promise. Most plantings were complete. Reports were received of problems getting crops sprayed due to continued winds. Temperatures remained mild.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Crops looked good. Some early area alfalfa was close to first cutting. Livestock were on spring pastures. Grass looked good.

Whitman: Temperatures warmed and spring seeding operations were finishing up. Many operations were turning their attention to spraying and preparing summer fallow or chem-fallow. Rainfall was below average for the month but conditions remained good.

Weekly Weather Statistics

April 30, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
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	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	39	61	50	+2	6	-5	0	+0	0.91	+0.29	5	31.53	+2.22	108	137
Everett	42	62	51	+2	12	-2	0	+0	0.11	-0.46	4	28.84	-0.44	98	135
Hoquiam	42	60	53	+3	19	+5	0	+0	0.61	-0.28	5	64.41	+4.68	108	155
Kelso	39	66	54	+4	29	+11	0	+0	0.06	-0.64	1	37.16	-2.21	94	117
Olympia	38	65	53	+5	23	+14	0	+0	0.12	-0.53	4	52.19	+7.51	117	141
Seattle-Tacoma	43	65	54	+3	26	+10	0	+0	0.11	-0.36	2	40.28	+8.25	126	129
Shelton	41	65	52	+1	16	-5	0	+0	0.27	-0.49	5	71.27	+12.81	122	148
Tacoma WA AP	38	64	53	+3	23	+5	0	+0	0.11	-0.45	3	36.66	+2.41	107	130
Vancouver WA	43	70	57	+7	50	+31	3	+3	0.02	-0.54	1	34.61	-0.58	98	120
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	36	73	56	+7	44	+29	0	+0	0.00	-0.12	0	7.37	+0.18	103	70
Omak AP	31	73	55	+7	39	+25	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	0	6.84	-3.54	66	50
Stampede Pass	32	52	40	+4	0	+0	0	+0	0.51	-0.49	5	91.25	+20.19	128	147
Wenatchee	43	74	58	+5	59	+26	3	-2	0.00	-0.14	0	6.71	+0.19	103	47
Yakima AP	32	77	56	+5	46	+21	0	+0	0.00	-0.07	0	6.38	-0.04	99	52
NORTHEAST															
Colville	35	72	54	+6	34	+20	2	+2	0.00	-0.35	0	11.48	-4.24	73	84
Deer Park	28	68	50	+2	9	-5	0	+0	0.00	-0.35	0	15.26	+1.23	109	93
Republic	26	70	49	+4	8	+1	0	+0	0.00	-0.28	0	10.82	+0.33	103	62
Spokane AP	34	68	53	+5	24	+11	0	+0	0.01	-0.27	1	12.02	-0.37	97	85
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	38	74	57	+4	54	+18	0	-6	0.00	-0.09	0	5.92	+0.27	105	57
Moses Lake	34	73	56	+3	43	+7	3	-3	0.00	-0.09	0	5.17	-0.48	92	56
Quincy	42	75	58	+5	55	+24	2	-3	0.00	-0.10	0	6.52	+0.36	106	45
Ritzville	35	72	52	+3	22	+8	0	+0	0.02	-0.19	1	9.23	+0.34	104	72
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	34	79	58	+1	59	+5	6	-3	0.00	-0.07	0	3.88	-1.40	73	42
Pasco	38	80	58	+3	61	+14	7	+0	0.00	-0.13	0	5.99	+0.03	101	63
Pullman	34	68	52	+5	16	+7	0	+0	0.01	-0.34	1	14.09	-2.32	86	91
Walla Walla Rgn	43	74	60	+6	71	+34	9	+2	0.01	-0.34	1	15.40	-0.08	99	80
Whitman Mission	38	77	57	+5	53	+23	6	+6	0.04	-0.21	1	11.04	+0.40	104	84
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	39	76	57	+5	54	+21	5	+3	0.00	-0.28	0	7.01	-1.37	84	68

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation

Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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